

## **BROWN AMENDMENT #312**

**Description of Amendment:** This amendment would amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to help train Foreign Service Officers and immigration officials to better stem the flow of human trafficking by spotting victims before they are trafficked into the United States. It would mandate new minimum training procedures for Foreign Service personnel at the highest levels, building on formal recommendations from a State Department Office of Inspector General report.

### **Background**

- Although the federal government has a zero-tolerance policy on human trafficking, Foreign Service Officers, who often have face-to-face contact with victims obtaining US visas, undergo minimal training to define, identify and recognize indicators of human trafficking or smuggling.
- According to a recent State Department Inspector General report, human trafficking issues and the requirements of the main U.S. laws against it remain "poorly understood" among "rank-and-file diplomats" serving in the U.S. Foreign Service. The report can be found at <https://oig.state.gov/system/files/195185.pdf>.
- This report issued multiple recommendations including creation of a distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus' trafficking-in -persons coordinators, and their superiors as well as requiring in person briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before they depart for their posts.
- This amendment is Senate companion to Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney's Human Trafficking Prevention Act which passed the House by voice vote in January.